Provost June Aprille called the meeting to order at 4:05 PM in the Alice Haynes Room of the Tyler Haynes Commons.

Provost Aprille announced that Della Fenster, Associate Professor of Mathematics, was one of eleven winners of the State Council of Higher Education of Virginia’s Outstanding Faculty Award.

The Consent Agenda (see attached) was approved as published on the Web.

President Cooper reported on the University’s endowment, Capital Campaign, Annual Fund, and rental of the Alcoa building by Philip Morris (see attached). As of December 31, 2003, the endowment stood at $1.07 billion (compared to a high of $1.18 billion three years ago). The Capital Campaign currently has commitments of $119 million towards its $175 million goal and will go public this March 4. Having already raised $2.66 million for the Annual Fund, we expect to exceed last year’s total of $5.06 million, which was the highest amount in the University’s history. The first $8 million of income from the Philip Morris rental will be used to repay the endowment from which money for the purchase came. Subsequent rental income will be used for capital projects like the expansion and renovation of Boatwright Library.

The President also reported on the December 11, 2003 Board of Trustees’ Executive Meeting (see attached). The Board approved a 4% compensation pool increase and a 2% operating budget increase recommended by Planning and Priorities, a 6% increase in tuition and room and board, and the Program Improvement recommendations. The Board received a report on single-sex partner benefits from a study completed by a joint task force of the Academic Program and Business Management Committees. The matter has been referred back to the Administration for decision. The Pricing Policy Task Force chaired by Vice President of Business and Finance, Herb Peterson, is studying the University’s next tuition move. We currently are “under-charging” in comparison to our national competitors.

Provost Aprille reported on the Bonner Center for Civic Engagement, the Richmond Research Institute and the University Task Force on Undergraduate Education. The Center, funded by the Bonner Foundation, will be directed by Douglas Hicks, Assistant Professor of Leadership Studies and Religion. Washington and Lee, which has a similar program, has solicited the Center to enter into a consortium to apply for funding on the topic of poverty. The Provost thanked the Faculty Planning Committee chaired by Hicks: Margaret Bacigal (Law), Catherine Bagwell (Psychology), Jennifer Cable (Music), Daryl Dance (English), Scott Johnson (Rhetoric and Communication Studies), Dulce Lawrence (Spanish), Rick Mayes (Political Science), KimMarie McGoldrick (Economics), Del McWhorter (Philosophy), and Jonathan Wight (Economics).

The Richmond Research Institute was approved by the Board as a Program Improvement and will be launched this July 1 with a three-year sunset clause. The Provost thanked the Founders Committee chaired by John Whelan (Political Science): Pat Brown (SCS), Betsy Curtler (Foundations, Corporate and Government Relations), Jennifer Erkulwater (Political Science), Ann Hodges (Law), Fred Jablin (Leadership), Kirk Jonas (Political Science), George Kindel (Journalism), and Bob Schmidt (Business).
The Provost urged all faculty, especially junior faculty, to provide recommendations on improving the curriculum to The University Task Force on Undergraduate Education. For a curriculum to be distinctive, boldness is needed and mere tinkering unacceptable.

Pam Spence, Dean of Admission, reported that total applications, as of January 21, 2004, were 4,816 as compared to 4,270 a year ago—an increase of 13%. Of the 386 early decision applications last fall, 144 will be enrolled. Winter early decision applications are still being considered. Dean Spence reminded the faculty about Open Houses for accepted students on April 7 and April 17 and Preview Richmond for high school sophomores and juniors on April 2 and April 14.

The Provost introduced the Trustee’s Response to the Faculty Resolution on Athletics (see attached). A subcommittee will be created to determine the impact of athletics on undergraduate education and whether the goals of athletics are congruent with the academic program.

The Field-of-Study courses (see attached) were approved.

Joe Kent (Mathematics and Computer Science) presented a proposal for revision of the Faculty Handbook (see attached). During the ensuing discussion it was recommended that Handbook revisions should ratify shared governance procedures enacted in the recent past and that the Handbook should reflect current practice but also what practice should be. Prof. Kent assured the faculty that these concerns were being addressed by the Committee and that all Handbook changes will come before the faculty for approval. Although items not related to faculty employment will be removed from the Handbook they will be covered in other documents. The Bylaws and the Charter of the University will also be consulted for compliance. An appendix will contain tenure and promotion procedures for each school with changes coming before their respective faculties. Deans of the various schools will be asked to review current polices. The proposal was approved unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:58 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Gene Anderson, Secretary

Revised 3/24/04